

Communication to the City Council in favor of the "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance

Massachusetts Sierra Club <office@sierraclubmass.org> on behalf of
Phillip Sego <sierra@sierraclub.org>

Thu 3/26/2015 12:03 PM

City Clerk Agenda

To: City Clerk Agenda <cityclerkagenda@cambridgema.gov>;

Mar 26, 2015

Cambridge City Clerk Donna Lopez
Cambridge, MA

To Cambridge City Clerk Lopez,

Please place the following as a communication to the Cambridge City Council in favor of the proposed "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance.

Dear Mayor Maher and Honorable Members of the Cambridge City Council,

I deeply appreciate the Council's hard work in creating a plastic bag ordinance that's fair, applied equally, and addresses the growing and alarming problem of plastic pollution in our oceans.

I urge you to vote YES on the proposed "Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance" as recommended by the Ordinance Committee, and resist any attempts to weaken it. Please keep it a strong law that will lead and inspire the state and country. Please support a minimum thickness of at least 3.0 mils and please ensure that all commercial businesses are equally covered by this law.

Single-use plastic bags, made of fossil fuels, represent one of the most visible environmental catastrophes of our generation. It is estimated that 60-80% of all debris in the ocean is plastic. These plastics never biodegrade. Every plastic bag is a vote for the fracking of natural gas.

Plastic bags are so aerodynamic that even when properly disposed of, they can still blow away and become litter. They easily escape from garbage trucks, landfills, boats, and often average consumers' hands.

Not only a visible eyesore, plastic bags are extremely dangerous to wildlife. They are often mistaken for food by marine mammals and seabirds. The United Nations estimates that plastic bags kill countless

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millions of animals per year. These animals suffer a painful death as the plastic wraps around their intestines or they choke to death.

Sincerely,

Mr. Phillip Sego
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